



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/721,262	11/26/2003	Yusuke Nakazawa	Q78598	6442
23373	7590	05/05/2005	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			LIANG, LEONARD S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2853	

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2005

:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

:

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/721,262

Applicant(s)

NAKAZAWA, YUSUKE

Examiner

Leonard S. Liang

Art Unit

2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 November 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/26/03, 05/04/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification and Drawings

The lengthy specification and drawings have not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification and drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Saitoh (US Pat 6400920).

Saitoh discloses:

- {claim 1} An image recording apparatus which records an image on a recording medium, the image recording apparatus comprising in housing thereof: a water vapor removing section which removes water vapor; and a solvent recovering section which recovers vapor of organic solvent; which evaporates within the housing (abstract)

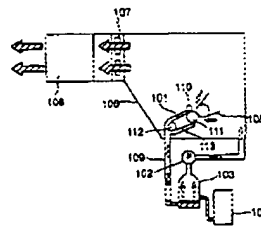


FIG.5

- {claim 2} wherein the vapor of organic solvent is vapor evaporated from a recording liquid for recording the image on the recording medium (abstract)
- {claim 3} wherein the water vapor removing section is provided at an inlet portion which takes in air from outside of the housing into the inside of the housing (figure 5, reference 103-104 serves a housing; inlet portion is seen as part leading into the thus defined housing)
- {claim 4} wherein the solvent recovering section is provided at an outlet port which exhausts air from the inside of the housing to the outside of the housing (figure 5, reference 103-104 serves as housing; outlet portion is seen as part leading away from the thus defined housing)
- {claim 5} wherein the housing is in a substantially sealed state except for the inlet port and the outlet port (figure 5, reference 103-104)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

Art Unit: 2853

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saitoh (US Pat 6400920) in view of Urano (US Pat 4254339).

Saitoh discloses an image forming apparatus (as applied to claims 1-5 above).

Saitoh differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose:

- {claim 6} wherein an activated carbon filter is used as the water vapor removing section
- {claim 7} wherein a silica gel filter is used as the water vapor removing section

Urano discloses, with respect to claims 6-7, an activated carbon filter and a silica gel filter being used to remove moisture from air (column 5, lines 13-19).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Urano into the invention of Saitoh. The motivation for the skilled artisan in doing so is to gain the benefit of removing moisture from air.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saitoh (US Pat 6400920) in view of Nii (US Pat 6693295).

Saitoh discloses an image forming apparatus (as applied to claims 1-5 above), where the image forming apparatus is an electrophotographic device (abstract).

Saitoh differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose:

- {claim 8} wherein the image recording apparatus is an ink type recording apparatus

Art Unit: 2853

Nii discloses the existence of vapor deposition methods for both electrophotographic and ink jet printing methods (column 26, lines 45-49; the examiner is well aware that the field of invention of Nii is vastly different from the field of invention of the claimed invention; however the teaching of Nii is simply being used to show the equivalence between electrophotographic printing and ink jet printing).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Nii in view of Saitoh. The motivation for the skilled artisan in doing so is to gain the benefit of being able to interchange an electrophotographic recording device with an ink-jet printing device for added flexibility.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Loyd et al (US Pat 5477256) discloses an ink mist filter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonard S. Liang whose telephone number is (571) 272-2148. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2853

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

lsl 156
04/21/05


5/2/05
MANISH S. SHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER